United Nations S/2002/122

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 January 2002

Original: English

## Letter dated 24 January 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period 1 to 30 November 2001 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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## Annex

### Monthly report to the United Nations on operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 30 November 2001), there were just under 40,000 troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in theatre.

2. The overall situation in Kosovo during the month of November remained relatively stable despite some inter-ethnic and criminally motivated incidents. Voting for the election of the Kosovo Assembly took place on 17 November, with reports of only a few minor and isolated acts of political intimidation. These incidents included an explosion outside the municipality building of Zvecan during a meeting of a Kosovar Serb political party, and the stoning of members of the same political party when leaving Dakovica monastery after a meeting. A grenade was also thrown at the house of the Mayor of Obilic.

#### Security

3. Although no major incidents occurred in connection with the elections, other incidents of a criminal and inter-ethnic nature were reported. These included several stone-throwing attacks on the Zvecan/Kosovo Polje train — two people were arrested following one of the incidents on 12 November; the killing of an elderly Kosovar Serb woman and the injuring of her husband in a drive-by shooting in Obilic on 22 November; and bombs thrown at a petrol station in Deneral Jankovic on 29 November, where two employees were injured. Other incidents included vandalism of graveyards and defacement of tombstones.

4. KFOR soldiers were slightly injured in one of the attacks on the Zvecan/Kosovo Polje train, and in a gas spray attack in north-east Mitrovica.

#### Border/boundary security

5. KFOR continued its activities along the borders with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[1] and with Albania to confiscate weapons, deter smuggling, detain persons illegally crossing the borders, and deter others attempting to enter the province.

6. During the reporting period, 190 weapons, 265 grenades and mines, and 24,065 rounds of ammunition were seized. Seventy-five people were detained and handed over to United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) police. The number of attempted illegal border crossings did not increase over the reporting period.

#### Cooperation and compliance by the parties

7. With regard to the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), progress was achieved when General Ceku agreed on 24 November to the modification of the KPC structure and to the requirement to establish a reserve force of 2,000. The first list of 375 reservists will be issued by the middle of December and the first vocational course will begin in 2002.

8. Thirteen cases of non-compliance were reported during November, an increase over recent months. These included the arrest by UNMIK of the Commander of the

KPC Regional Task Group 4 detachment in Mitrovica on suspicion of kidnapping. Fifteen hundred Kosovar Albanians protested peacefully in Victurin following this arrest. Other cases included one of attempted murder, and another of firing an illegally held gun in a restaurant. Six cases of non-compliance have been closed, leaving 30 cases open. The open cases are either pending investigation or implementation of recent directions, or awaiting presentation to the judicial system.

9. Despite this increase in the number of cases of non-compliance, no KPC members violated the electoral process regulations. KPC members continued to carry out a variety of humanitarian projects throughout the province.

10. No weapons were destroyed during this reporting period. The total number of weapons destroyed under the weapons destruction programme therefore remains at 10,132.

11. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia security forces remain in general compliance with the terms of the military technical agreement.

**Cooperation with international organizations**

12. KFOR continues to provide daily assistance to international organizations and non-governmental organizations throughout Kosovo, on request, and to provide security assistance in support of UNMIK police operations. On 16 November, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General confirmed his agreement to the first two chapters of the joint UNMIK/KFOR Mitrovica strategy.

**Return of refugees and displaced persons**

13. The number of refugees from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia estimated to be remaining in Kosovo is 23,200.

**Elections held on 17 November**

14. KFOR provided support to UNMIK and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the duration of the Kosovo-wide elections, in which 64.3 per cent of the 1,249,987 registered voters turned out.[2] Although there were reports of minor incidents in the areas of Gnjilane, Liplijan and Kacanik, and of some intimidation of voters in northern Mitrovica, there were no organized efforts to disrupt voting.

**Outlook**

15. The security situation in Kosovo continues to be stable. The lack of violence during the election campaign, and the relative calm in both southern Serbia and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are encouraging for the future security situation in the province, although the high unemployment rate (at over 66 per cent, the highest in Europe) and the dire economic outlook are of concern to the international community.

*Notes*

[1] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

[2] The turnout in Kosovo was 64.91 per cent and in Serbia and Montenegro 57.38 per cent. Special needs and postal voting accounted for 65.72 per cent.